MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
COLOSSUS
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
12
UK 50p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
SEE: THE CHILLING CLIMAX TO THE SAGA OF THE MAN-THING
SEE: THE X-MEN'S COLOSSUS VS. THE C.I.A!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

COVER — Ron Frenz & Joe Sinnott

TERRY KAVANAGH editor
MICHAEL ROCKWITZ assistant editor
TOM DeFALCO editor in chief

Stan Lee Presents:

COLOSSUS "GOD'S COUNTRY" 1

WRITER — Ann Nocenti
PENCILER — Rick Leonardi
INKER — P. Craig Russell
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORISTS — Glynis Oliver & Mike Rockwitz

"IRON CURTAINS" — PART 3 OF 8

Colossus is on vacation from the X-Men. He meets a sweet-as-pie American family, out on a picnic. But little Zackery stumbles upon a *murder* and Colossus finds himself fighting the *Cold Warriors*! Peter, your vacation is over!

MAN-THING "ELEMENTS OF TERROR" 9

WRITER — Steve Gerber
PENCILER — Tom Sutton
INKER — Tom Sutton
LETTERER — Bill Oakley
COLORIST — Michael Higgins

"THE CONCLUSION"

The devil priestess Marea is dead. Reporter Mickey Dibilio, his girlfriend Lyssa, and soldier of fortune Lloyd Zahner are General Edwin Selbert's prisoners in a shabby motel room. Can Colonel Jody Choate and his band of "super-soldiers" salvage the designs of the shadow government — or will its covert mission be terminated at the hands of macabre Man-Thing?

HERCULES "NOBLE FATHERS HAVE NOBLE SONS" 17

WRITER — Chris Henderson
PENCILER — Don Heck
INKER — Randy Emberlin
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — John A. Wilcox

Hercules, the mighty Son of Zues, has been the protector of humanity for eons. Boastful and arrogant he might be, but he is also the Prince of Power, a true champion, valuing honor above all things.

NAMORITA "SPRING BREAK" 25

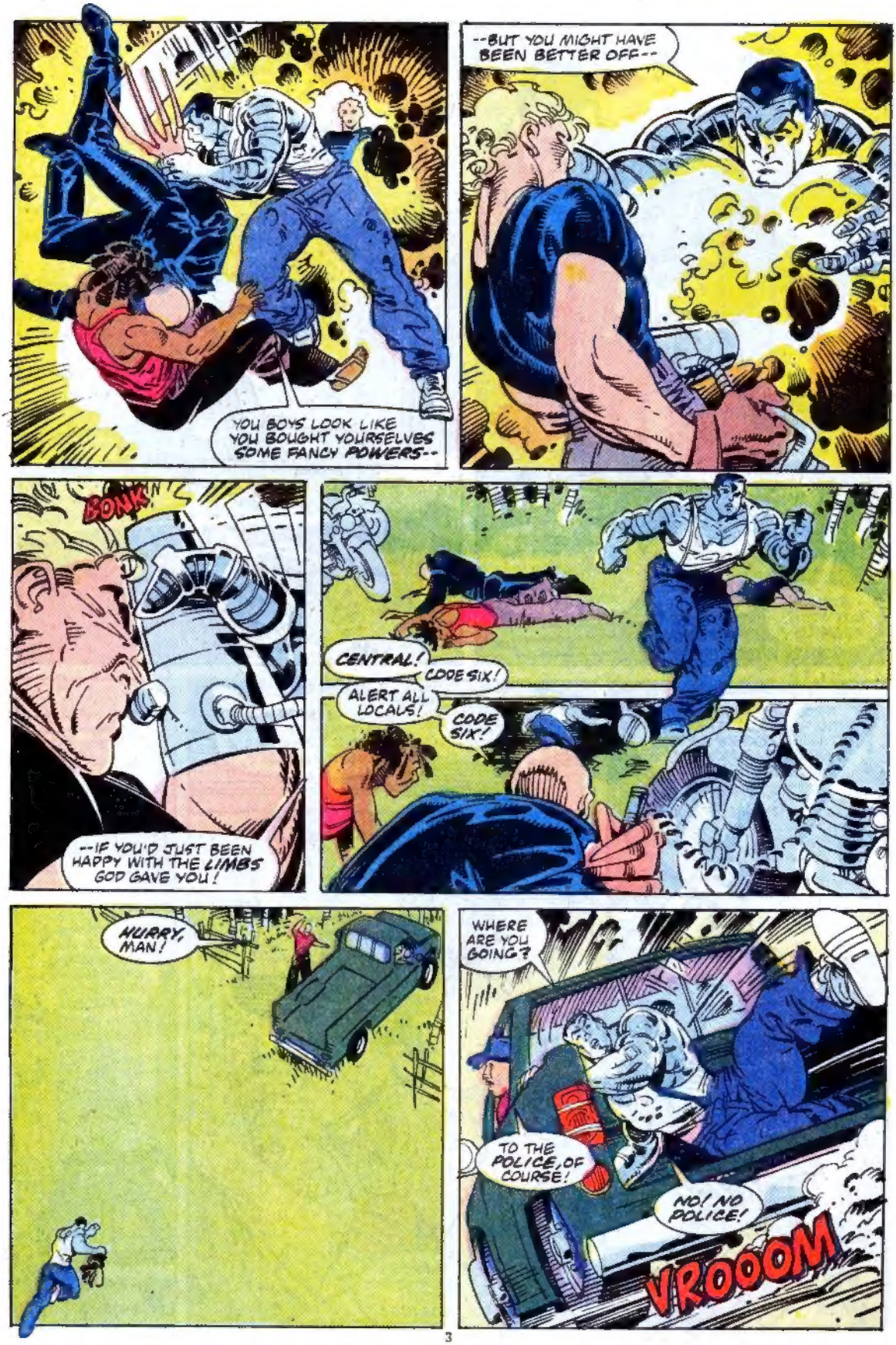
WRITER — Scott Lobdell
PENCILER — Frank Springer
INKER — Fred Fredericks
LETTERER — Diana Albers
COLORIST — John A. Wilcox

As the only cousin of the Mighty Sub-Mariner, she's a reluctant member of the undersea kingdom of Atlantis' Royal Family. Sharing Namor's half-human hybrid heritage, Namorita has chosen to educate herself among the Surface Dwellers.

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 12, Early February, 1989. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-weekly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. Subscription rate $15.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $21.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

I THINK IT'S BEGINNING TO MELT--
BUT I CAN'T CRACK THROUGH!
MY CLAWS ARE RIPPING HIM--
--BUT NOT ENOUGH!
DON'T STOP! DON'T STOP TILL YOU RIP THROUGH THAT METAL AND GET TO THE FLESH AND BLOOD MAN INSIDE!
COLOSSUS
GOD'S COUNTRY PART III
IRON CURTAINS

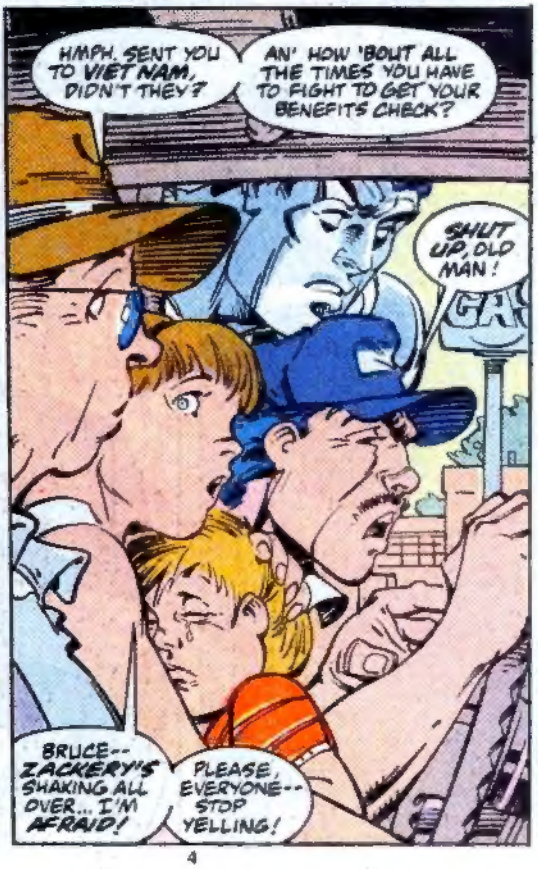
FWOOSH
DADDY, NO! WAIT!
GET BACK IN THERE, MEN!
HIT HIM TILL HE BREAKS!
QUIET, BOY!
NO! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM!
DADDY! DON'T RUN AWAY!
WE GOT 'IM! HE'S CRACKING--
--ARROH!
HELP ME!
YAY, MON.


YOU BOYS LOOK LIKE YOU BOUGHT YOURSELVES SOME FANCY POWERS--
--BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF--
BONK
--IF YOU'D JUST BEEN HAPPY WITH THE LIMBS GOD GAVE YOU!
CENTRAL!
CODE SIX!
ALERT ALL LOCALS!
CODE SIX!
HURRY, MAN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THE POLICE, OF COURSE!
NO! NO POLICE!
VROOOM

WHY NOT? WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO HIDE?
NOTHING!
THEN WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE COPS?
IN THIS COUNTRY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEAR THE POLICE!
THEY DON'T HUSTLE YOU OFF TO PRISON CAMPS LIKE IN YOUR COUNTRY!
BRUCE, NOT NOW, PLEASE--!

WE HAVE A SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH THEM! THEY DEFEND US!
YES, BUT THAT CONTRACT IS BAD IF IT MEANS YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF!
I JUST HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THIS!

THOSE MEN, THEIR BUILT-IN POWERS--THAT'S NO MERE MAFIA GANG--THERE'S BIG MONEY BEHIND THEM!
LOOK, YOU-- I FOUGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY! AND NOW I NEED THEM TO FIGHT FOR ME!
THEY WON'T LET ME DOWN! MY COUNTRY WON'T BETRAY ME!


HMPH. SENT YOU TO VIET NAM, DIDN'T THEY?
AN' HOW 'BOUT ALL THE TIMES YOU HAVE TO FIGHT TO GET YOUR BENEFITS CHECK?
SHUT UP, OLD MAN!
BRUCE-- ZACKERY'S SHAKING ALL OVER... I'M AFRAID!
PLEASE, EVERYONE-- STOP YELLING!

SORRY, M'AM. GUESS I JUST GOT A LITTLE PARANOID.
WE'LL ALL CALM DOWN ONCE WE'RE INSIDE THE STATION...

LATER...
OKAY, FOLKS.
WE GOT A VAN OUTSIDE THAT'S GONNA TAKE YOU TO A SPECIAL UNIT THAT HANDLES INCIDENTS LIKE THIS.
IT'S HERE.
RIGHT.
YUP.
RIGHT.
THIS WAY, WATCH YOUR STEP...
HEY!
PETER!
WHAT THE HECK YOU DOING?
I DON'T TRUST THEM!
YOU'RE PARANOID! THEY WERE GOING TO PROTECT US!
KPOW
KPOW
REALLY, BRUCE?
SINCE WHEN DO COPS SHOOT AT WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

SOON...
LOOK, BRUCE-- WE SHOULD GO FAR AWAY-- INTO HIDING! THIS IS THE FIRST PLACE THEY'LL LOOK!
YOU'LL BE MURDERING YOUR OWN FAMILY TO STAY HERE!
WE AIN'T BUDGIN'.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!? YOU WERE WITNESSES TO SOMETHING VERY HIGH-LEVEL!
HAND ME SOME NAILS.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S C.I.A. OR WHAT, BUT IT'S BEYOND THE POLICE!
JUST SHUT UP. I'M PROTECTIN' MY FAMILY.
BANG BANG
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN?! DON'T YOU SEE?
YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT MAY BE TRYING TO KILL YOU!
NO!
THAT'S YOUR COUNTRY WHERE THAT STUFF HAPPENS!
NOT IN AMERICA!

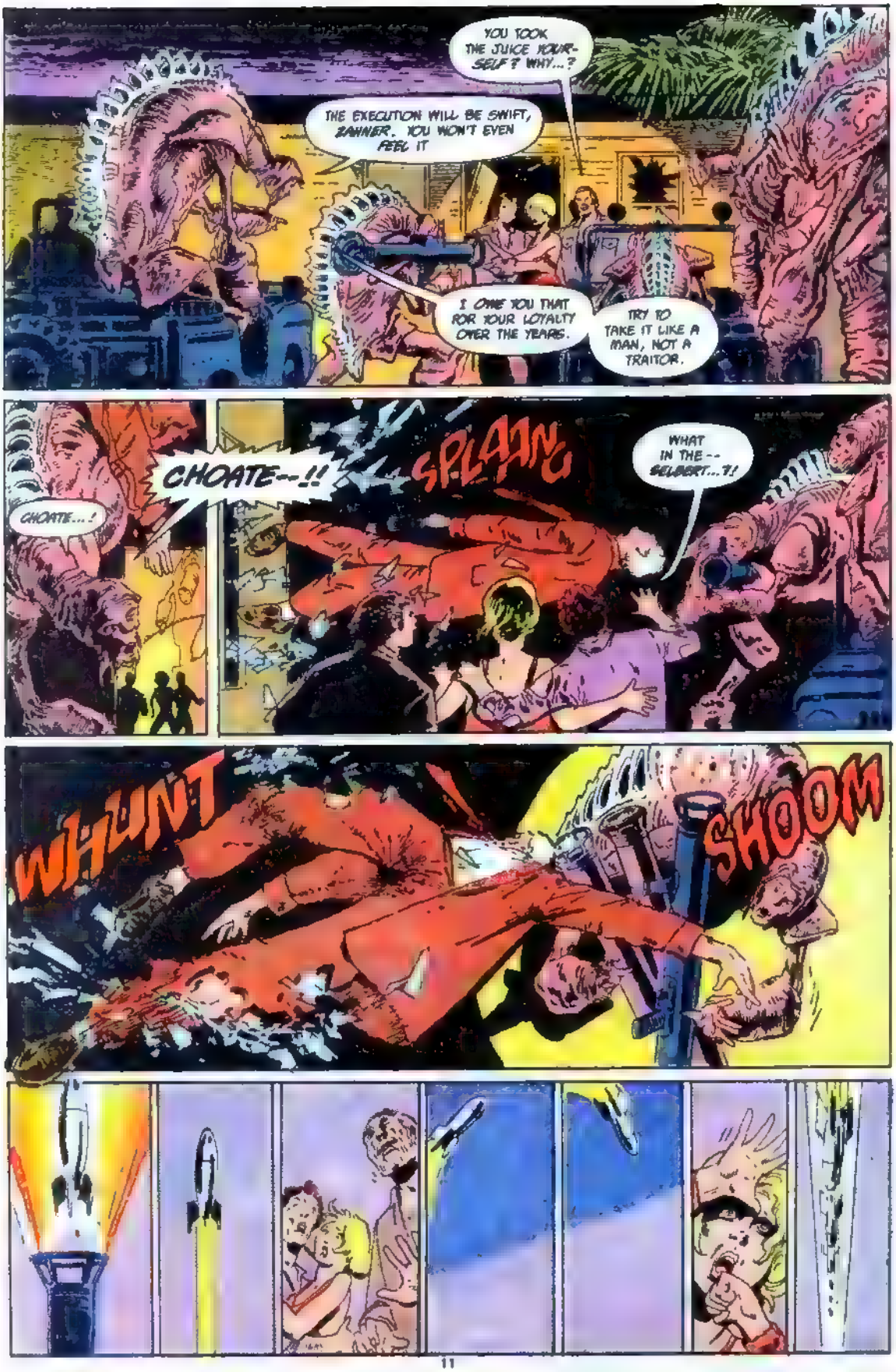
NOW DON'T YOU MUSS THE CURTAINS, BRUCE! I JUST WASHED THEM!
WOMAN! DON'T YOU GO GETTING STRANGE...
OH!
ROKY...?!
PERHAPS I'LL FIX US SOME LUNCH...
HERE!
WE HAVE TO FORTIFY THE FAMILY!
EVERYONE MUST BE HUNGRY. I'LL FIX LUNCH...
I JUST IRONED THOSE CURTAINS...
NOW THEY'RE A MESS...
BUT, BRUCE...
JUST LIKE OUR FOUNDING FATHERS TOOK UP ARMS TO DEFEND THEIR OWN!
JUST LIKE THE FIRST PIONEERS STAKED OUT THEIR LAND AND DEFENDED IT!
I'LL IRON THE CURTAINS NOW...
WE'RE AMERICANS!

WE COME FROM A LONG TRADITION OF FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN!
THIS IS OUR HOME!
BANG BANG
FIGHTIN' FOR FREEDOM BY TURNIN' OUR HOME INTO A PRISON!?
BANG BANG
...I'LL FIX US SOME LEMONADE...
HEY, YOU!
ARE YOU REALLY A COMMIE LIKE DAD SAYS?

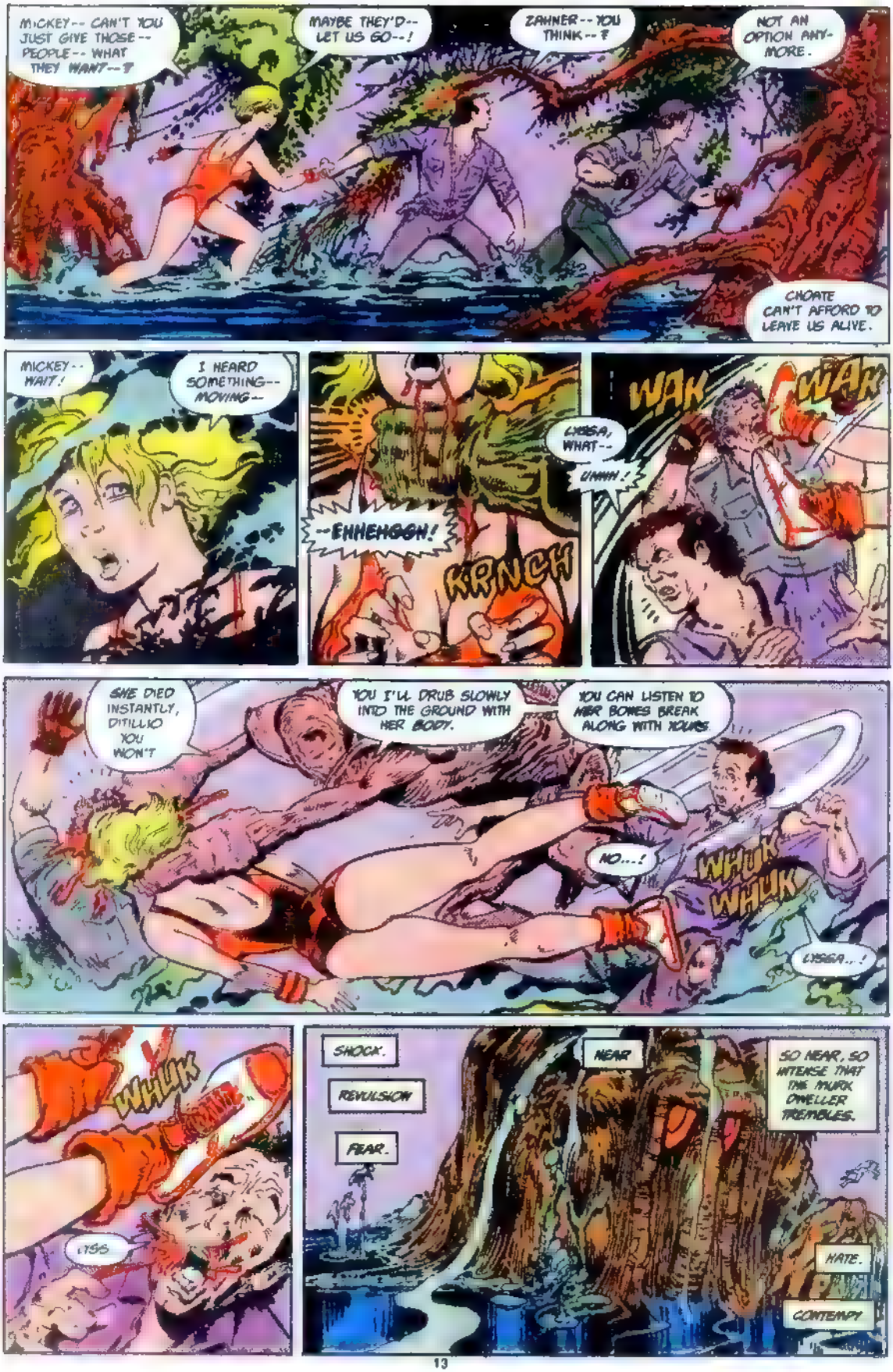
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

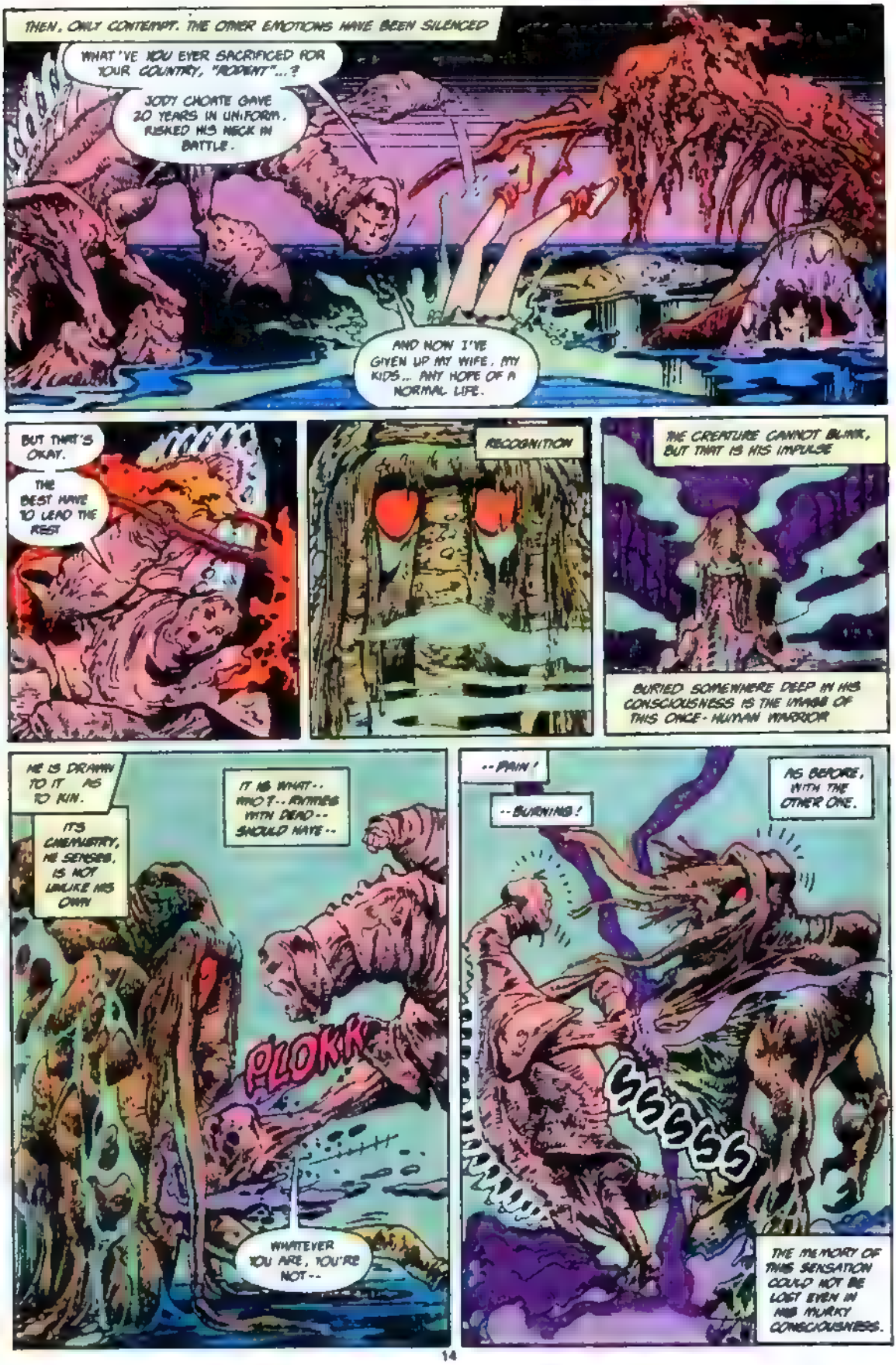
"ELEMENTS OF TERROR"
CHAPTER XII
GLAMOR
WORMS LIVE IN IT
AND MAGGOTS AND LICE AND A BILLION SINGLE-CELLED MONGERS OF INFECTION AND ROT
OTHER THINGS DIE IN IT
CAW
PEOPLE
THE DEVIL-PRIESTESS MAREA
TED SALLIS, WHOSE ESSENCE IT SWALLOWED WHOLE
RIBBIT RIBBIT
BUP
LOST IN THE LIVING HORRORS THAT CONSTITUTES THE
MAN-THING

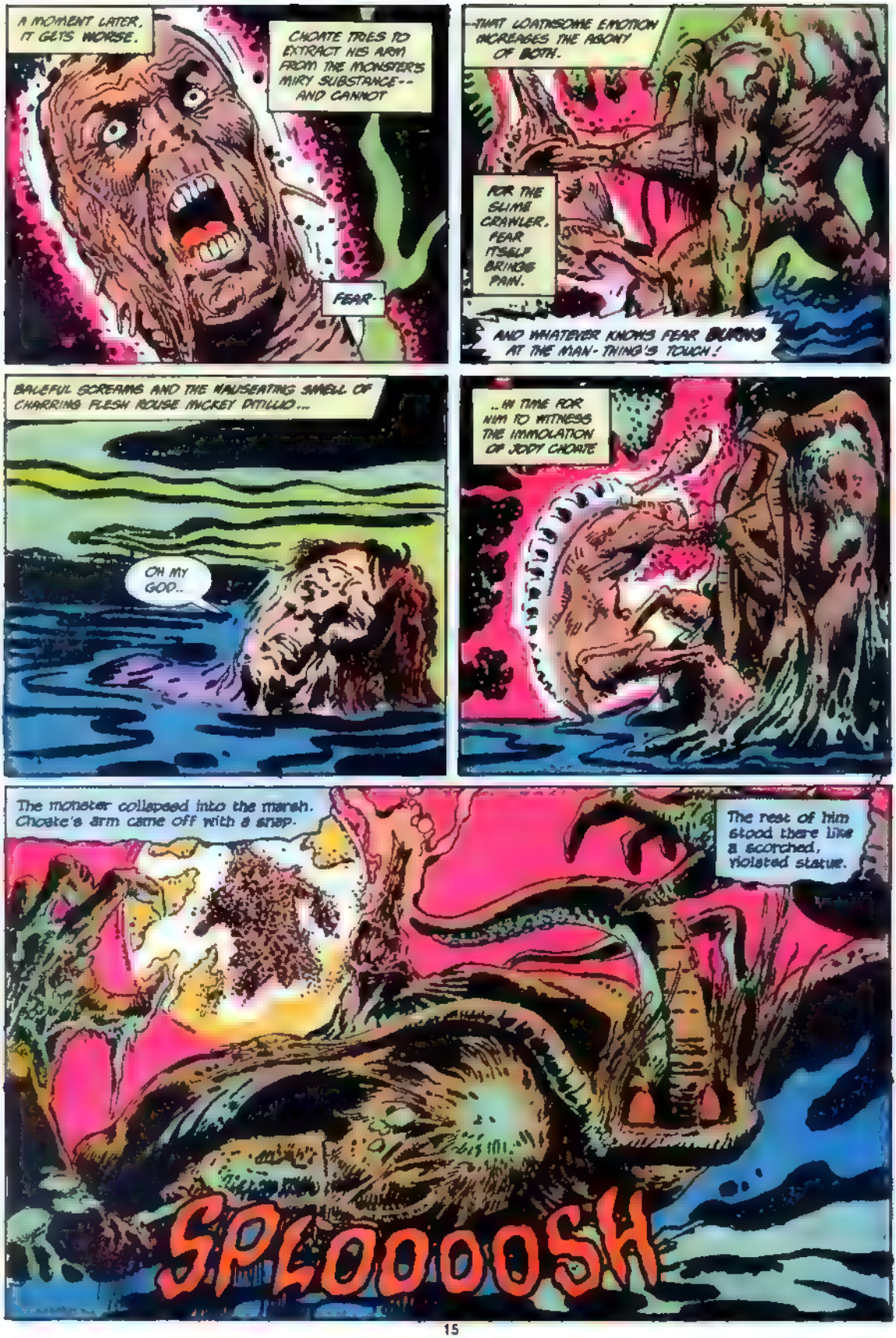
AND THERE WILL BE MORE...
SNAPP
HAGHHR
MICKEY... WHAT IS HE?
CRACKBONE SPINEDEATH, SELBERT! HATEKILL YOU!
A SO-CALLED "SUPER-SOLDIER"... WYCOMBE WAS TRYING TO WARN M--UHH--
HOLY MOTHER O' PEARL...
ZAHNER!
HALT WHERE YOU STAND! YOU AS WELL, "RODENT"-- AND THE GIRL!
THIS IS WHERE YOUR STORY, DITILLIO-- AND YOUR TREASON, CORNPOD-- END
STEEL...?


YOU TOOK THE JUICE YOURSELF? WHY...?
THE EXECUTION WILL BE SWIFT, ZAHNER. YOU WON'T EVEN FEEL IT
I OWE YOU THAT FOR YOUR LOYALTY OVER THE YEARS.
TRY TO TAKE IT LIKE A MAN, NOT A TRAITOR.
CHOATE...!
CHOATE--!!
SPLAAN
WHAT IN THE-- SELBERT...?!
WHUNT
SHOOM

KRA-TOOM
COME HERE, CHOATE! LET ME REPAY THE FAVOR I OWE YOU!
BREAKBRAIN DIEPUMMEL, CHOATE!
RAILSBACK?
HERE..?
CHOATE...?
YOU DISEASED IMBECILE. YOU DID THIS..TO YOURSELF...?!
ERASE HIM.
HE'S EVIDENCE
URRGNNH!
GO FOR IT, AMIGOS! RIP HIM APART!
WE'LL SCATTER THE PIECES OVER THE SWAMP!
YEE-HAW!


MICKEY-- CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE THOSE-- PEOPLE-- WHAT THEY WANT--?
MAYBE THEY'D-- LET US GO--!
ZAHNER-- YOU THINK--?
NOT AN OPTION ANY-MORE.
CHOATE CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE US ALIVE.
MICKEY-- WAIT!
I HEARD SOMETHING-- MOVING--
--EHHEHGGH!
KRNCH
LYSSA, WHAT--
UHHH!
WAK
WAK
SHE DIED INSTANTLY, DITILLIO YOU WON'T
YOU I'LL DRUB SLOWLY INTO THE GROUND WITH HER BODY.
YOU CAN LISTEN TO HER BONES BREAK ALONG WITH YOURS
NO...!
WHUK WHUK
LYSSA...!
WHUK
LYSS
SHOCK.
REVULSION
FEAR.
NEAR
SO NEAR, SO INTENSE THAT THE MURK DWELLER TREMBLES.
HATE.
CONTEMPT

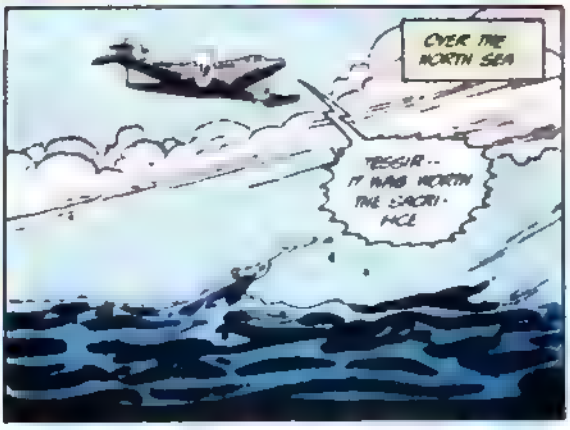

THEN, ONLY CONTEMPT. THE OTHER EMOTIONS HAVE BEEN SILENCED
WHAT'VE YOU EVER SACRIFICED FOR YOUR COUNTRY, "RODENT"...?
JODY CHOATE GAVE 20 YEARS IN UNIFORM, RISKED HIS NECK IN BATTLE.
AND NOW I'VE GIVEN UP MY WIFE, MY KIDS... ANY HOPE OF A NORMAL LIFE.
BUT THAT'S OKAY.
THE BEST HAVE TO LEAD THE REST
RECOGNITION
THE CREATURE CANNOT BLINK, BUT THAT IS HIS IMPULSE
BURIED SOMEWHERE DEEP IN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE WRAITH OF THIS ONCE-HUMAN WARRIOR
HE IS DRAWN TO IT AS TO KIN.
ITS CHEMISTRY, HE SENSES, IS NOT UNLIKE HIS OWN
IT IS WHAT-- WHO?-- ANYMORE WITH DEAD-- SHOULD HAVE--
PLOKK
WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE NOT--
--PAIN!
--BURNING!
AS BEFORE, WITH THE OTHER ONE.
SSSSSS
THE MEMORY OF THIS SENSATION COULD NOT BE LOST EVEN IN HIS MURKY CONSCIOUSNESS.

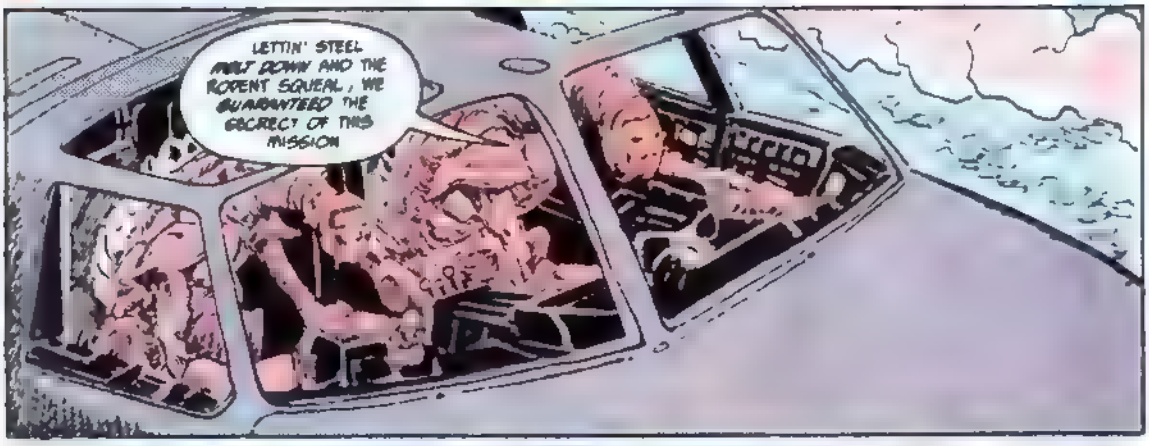

A MOMENT LATER, IT GETS WORSE.
CHOATE TRIES TO EXTRACT HIS ARM FROM THE MONSTER'S MIRY SUBSTANCE-- AND CANNOT
FEAR-
-THAT LOATHSOME EMOTION INCREASES THE AGONY OF BOTH.
FOR THE SLIME CRAWLER, FEAR ITSELF BRINGS PAIN.
AND WHATEVER KNOWS FEAR BURNS AT THE MAN-THING'S TOUCH!
BALEFUL SCREAMS AND THE NAUSEATING SMELL OF CHARRING FLESH ROUSE INCKEY DITILLIO...
OH MY GOD..
...IN TIME FOR HIM TO WITNESS THE IMMOLATION OF JODY CHOATE
The monster collapsed into the marsh. Choate's arm came off with a snap.
The rest of him stood there like a scorched, violated statue.
SPLOOOOSH

The only statue that will ever be raised to this dubious "American hero"
-30-
MICK
IT'S DONE, ED

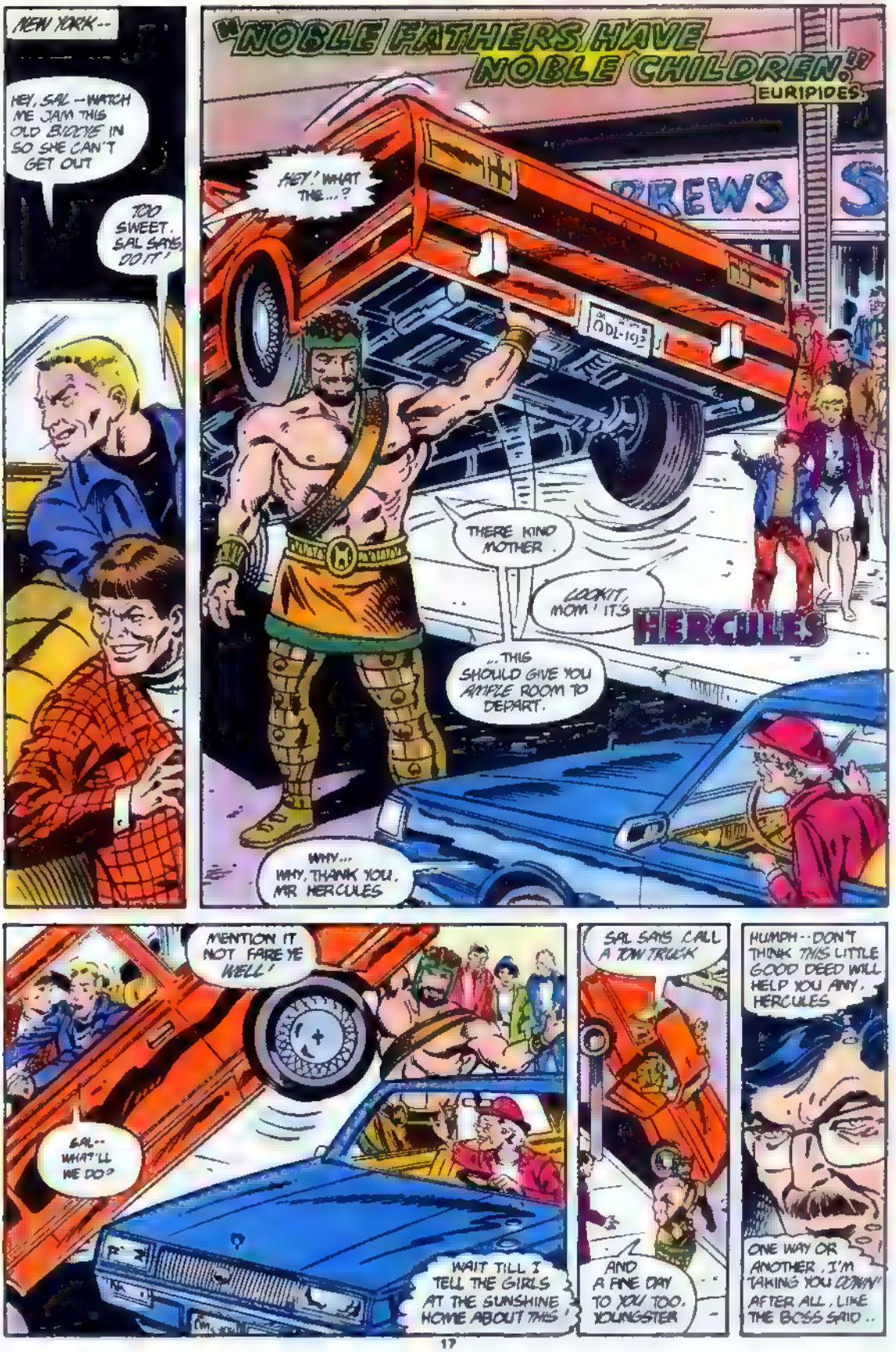
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF THROUGH ENOUGH?
YEAH I DO
BUT IT HAD TO BE WRITTEN, ED
SAVE

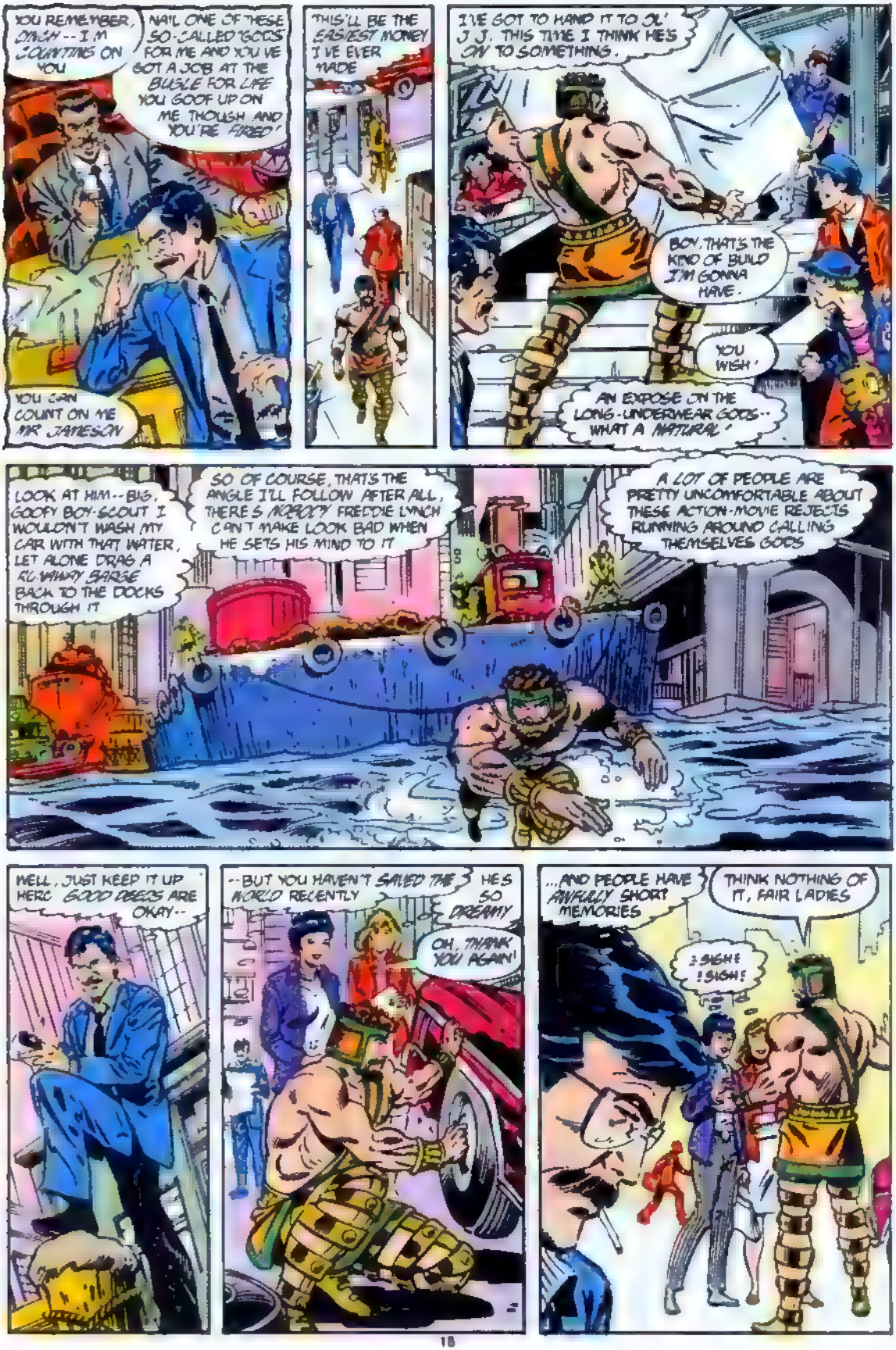
I WANT YOU TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF-- AS MUCH AS YOU NEED YOU'VE EARNED IT--
--NOT JUST FOR THE STORY BUT FOR THE GOOD YOU'VE DONE YOUR COUNTRY, EXPOSING THIS COVERT OPERATION


OVER THE NORTH SEA
"EGGIE-- IT WAS WORTH THE SACRIFICE


LETTIN' STEEL MELT DOWN AND THE ROTENT SQUEAL, WE GUARANTEED THE SECRECY OF THIS MISSION

"WELL... THAT'S JUST FINE, DIXON. JUST FINE.
"NOW YOU CRUISE THAT GRAPE AND GET ME BACK ON TOP OF THE POLLS, SON.
"BREAK A LEG!"
THE END


NEW YORK--
HEY, SAL--WATCH ME JAM THIS OLD BUDDY IN SO SHE CAN'T GET OUT
TOO SWEET. SAL SAYS DO IT!
"NOBLE FATHERS HAVE NOBLE CHILDREN."
EURIPIDES
HEY! WHAT THE...?
THERE KIND MOTHER.
LOOKIT, MOM! IT'S HERCULES
...THIS SHOULD GIVE YOU AMPLE ROOM TO DEPART.
WHY... WHY, THANK YOU, MR. HERCULES
MENTION IT NOT FARE YE WELL!
SAL--WHAT'LL WE DO?
WAIT TILL I TELL THE GIRLS AT THE SUNSHINE HOME ABOUT THIS!
SAL SAYS CALL A TOW TRUCK
AND A FINE DAY TO YOU TOO, YOUNGSTER
HUMPH--DON'T THINK THIS LITTLE GOOD DEED WILL HELP YOU ANY, HERCULES
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'M TAKING YOU DOWN' AFTER ALL, LIKE THE BOSS SAID..


YOU REMEMBER, DANNY -- I'M COUNTING ON YOU
NAIL ONE OF THESE SO-CALLED 'GODS' FOR ME AND YOU'VE GOT A JOB AT THE BUGLE FOR LIFE YOU GOOF UP ON ME THOUGH AND YOU'RE FIRED!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME MR JAMESON
"THIS'LL BE THE EASIEST MONEY I'VE EVER MADE
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO OL' J.J. THIS TIME I THINK HE'S ON TO SOMETHING.
BOY, THAT'S THE KIND OF BUILD I'M GONNA HAVE.
YOU WISH!
AN EXPOSE ON THE LONG-UNDERWEAR GODS-- WHAT A NATURAL!
LOOK AT HIM--BIG, GOOFY BOY-SCOUT I WOULDN'T WASH MY CAR WITH THAT WATER, LET ALONE DRAG A RUSTY BARGE BACK TO THE DOCKS THROUGH IT
SO OF COURSE, THAT'S THE ANGLE I'LL FOLLOW AFTER ALL, THERE'S NOBODY FREDDIE LYNCH CAN'T MAKE LOOK BAD WHEN HE SETS HIS MIND TO IT
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE PRETTY UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THESE ACTION-MOVIE REJECTS RUNNING AROUND CALLING THEMSELVES GODS
WELL, JUST KEEP IT UP HERO GOOD DEEDS ARE OKAY--
--BUT YOU HAVEN'T SAVED THE WORLD RECENTLY
HE'S SO DREAMY
OH, THANK YOU AGAIN!
...AND PEOPLE HAVE AWFULLY SHORT MEMORIES
THINK NOTHING OF IT, FAIR LADIES
SIGH!
SIGH!

HERE WE GO-- ANOTHER NIGHT OF PARTYING FOR THE BIG GUY AND MORE AMMO FOR MY ARTICLE
BOY--HE NEVER STOPS! THAT'S TEN PINTS SINCE WE GOT HERE, AND THIS IS THE FIFTH PLACE WE'VE BEEN IN TONIGHT
YEA, VERILY--ALL THIS ISLAND'S MASS PULLED BACK INTO PLACE BY THE PEERLESS POWER OF HERCULES.
DRINKING, GAMBLING, CHASING ANYTHING IN A SKIRT-- AND THE STORIES THIS GUY HAS THE NERVE TO TELL--!
OF COURSE, WHEN HE'S NOT BOUNCING IN AND OUT OF CLUBS ALL NIGHT LONG--
--HE'S WRECKING HALF THE CITY USUALLY FIGHTING ONE OF HIS FELLOW GOOD GUYS!
SURE, I'M EXAGGERATING THE SITUATION BUT SO WHAT?
I MEAN--
EH?

FEAR NOT--THE LION OF OLYMPUS IS HERE!
HAW HAW HAW
LET'S MAKE THAT "LYIN' UNCONSCIOUS"
YEAH, AFTER WE GET HIS DOUGH
HO HO--BRAVE RASCALS--COME FORWARD
INDEED I HAVE A "GIFT FOR EACH OF YOU
POW
YOOOHWWW!
IN TRUTH, THEY ARE BUT SMALL GIFTS
BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE SUFFICED
OOOWWW!
BASH
GROAN

HEY--THAT BROAD'S NOT HELPLESS--SHE WAS PLAYING SUCKER-BAIT FOR THE MUGGERS...
...AND NOW SHE'S GOING FOR HERCULES'S BACK WITH A KNIFE.
THIS GETS BETTER AND BETTER
LEARN FROM THIS LESSON, MORTALS THE NEXT TEACHER YOU HAVE MAY NOT BE AS GOODLY HUMORED AS I.
WHAT?
ZOUNDS!
SLAM
OOOHHHHH!
WHAT BASE TREACHERY IS THIS?!
FATHER ZEUS!!
HUMAN TREACHERY, MY SON!
KRAKKA
BOOM
TREACHERY WHICH MUST BE PUNISHED!!

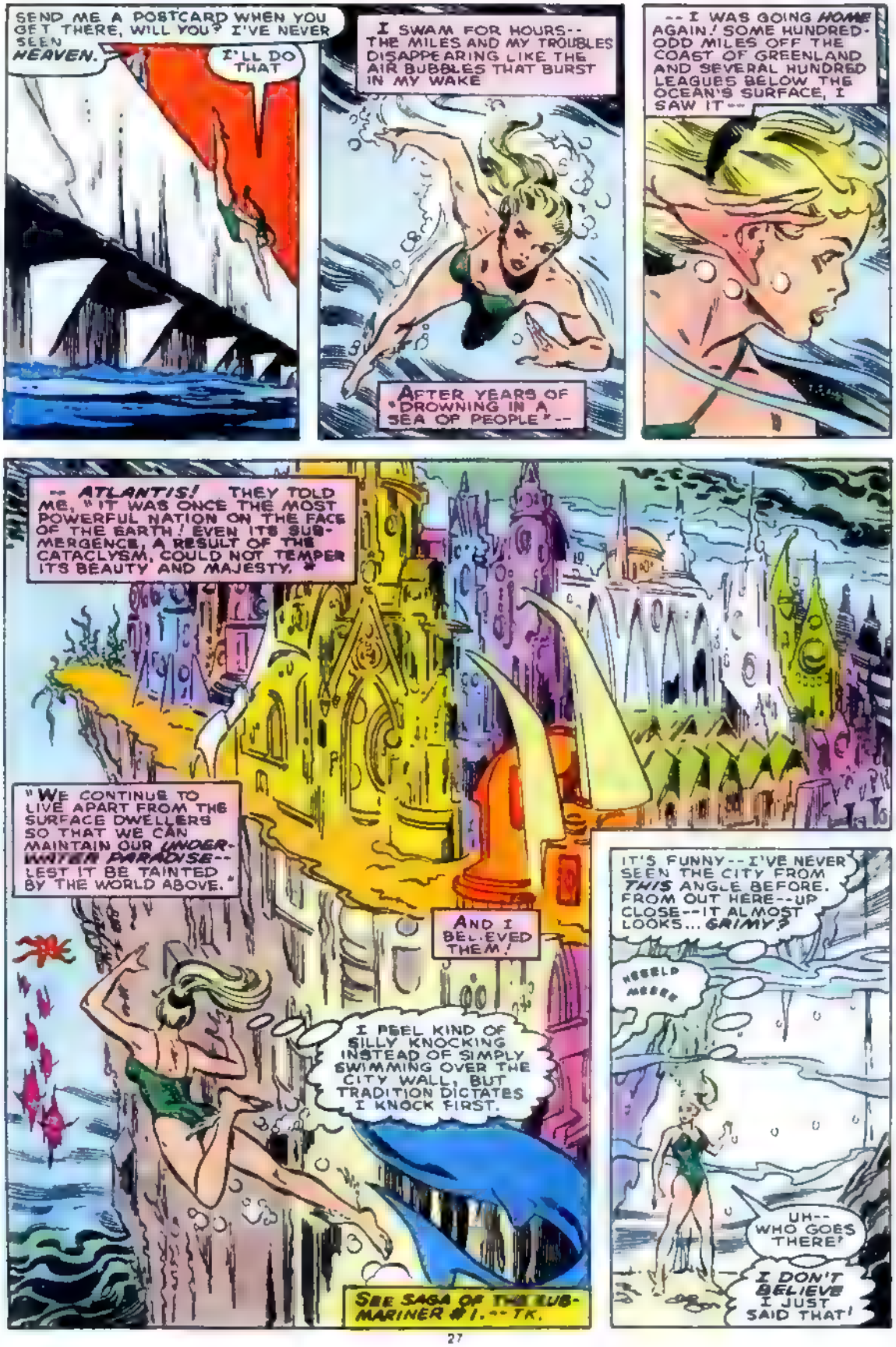
WHAT FUTURE IS THERE FOR THE FABLED HALLS OF OLYMPUS WHEN CURS SUCH AS THESE DARE -- DARE -- TO ATTACK A GOD ?!
FATHER THIS IS A NEW AGE... A NEW TIME IN THE UNIVERSE
BAH! YOU SPEAK NOT LIKE A WARRIOR, BUT A FOOL!
WE HAVE ALLOWED THESE MORTAL SLUGS THEIR MOMENT IN THE SUNLIGHT ..
.. AND NOW -- THEY WOULD DESTROY US!
YOU ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME, HERCULES
THIS IS GREAT! EVEN HIS OLD MAN IS GONNA GIVE ME MATERIAL
HOW SO FATHER ?
BECAUSE YOU ARE WEAK!
THIS WOMAN ATTACKED YOU -- SOUGHT YOUR LIFE -- AND YOU DID NOTHING!
WORSHIP AND RESPECT COME ONLY THROUGH FEAR THESE HUMANS MUST BE MADE TO FEAR US AGAIN
KILL THIS CHATTEL -- THE RIGHT IS YOURS -- SERVE OLYMPUS AND KILL HER!

NO.
WHAT?!
ALTHOUGH IT FILLS ME WITH GRIEF TO IGNORE ANY COMMAND YOU GIVE, FATHER, I MUST DEFY YOU IN THIS
OH BOY-- PULITZER, HERE I COME!
WHAT THIS WOMAN DID WAS WRONG, BUT HER MURDER WILL NOT MAKE IT RIGHT...
"...NOR WILL IT SERVE OLYMPUS. MORTALS ARE NEITHER TOYS NOR FOOLS. THEY MAKE POOR SLAVES BUT GOOD FRIENDS.
TO KILL THE UNDESERVING IS AN ACT OF NEVER-ENDING SHAME. AS AN IMMORTAL, THE PROSPECT OF AN ETERNITY OF SHAME DAUNTS ME TOO GREATLY.
I WILL NOT KILL THIS WOMAN, FATHER.
BRAZEN YOUNGLING-- THIS ANSWER COMPELS ME TO BUT ONE RESPONSE!
AND, THOUGH IT PAINS MY HEART SORE TO BREAKING, I WILL STAND AGAINST ALL WHO WOULD-- EVEN IF IT MEANS MY DEATH!

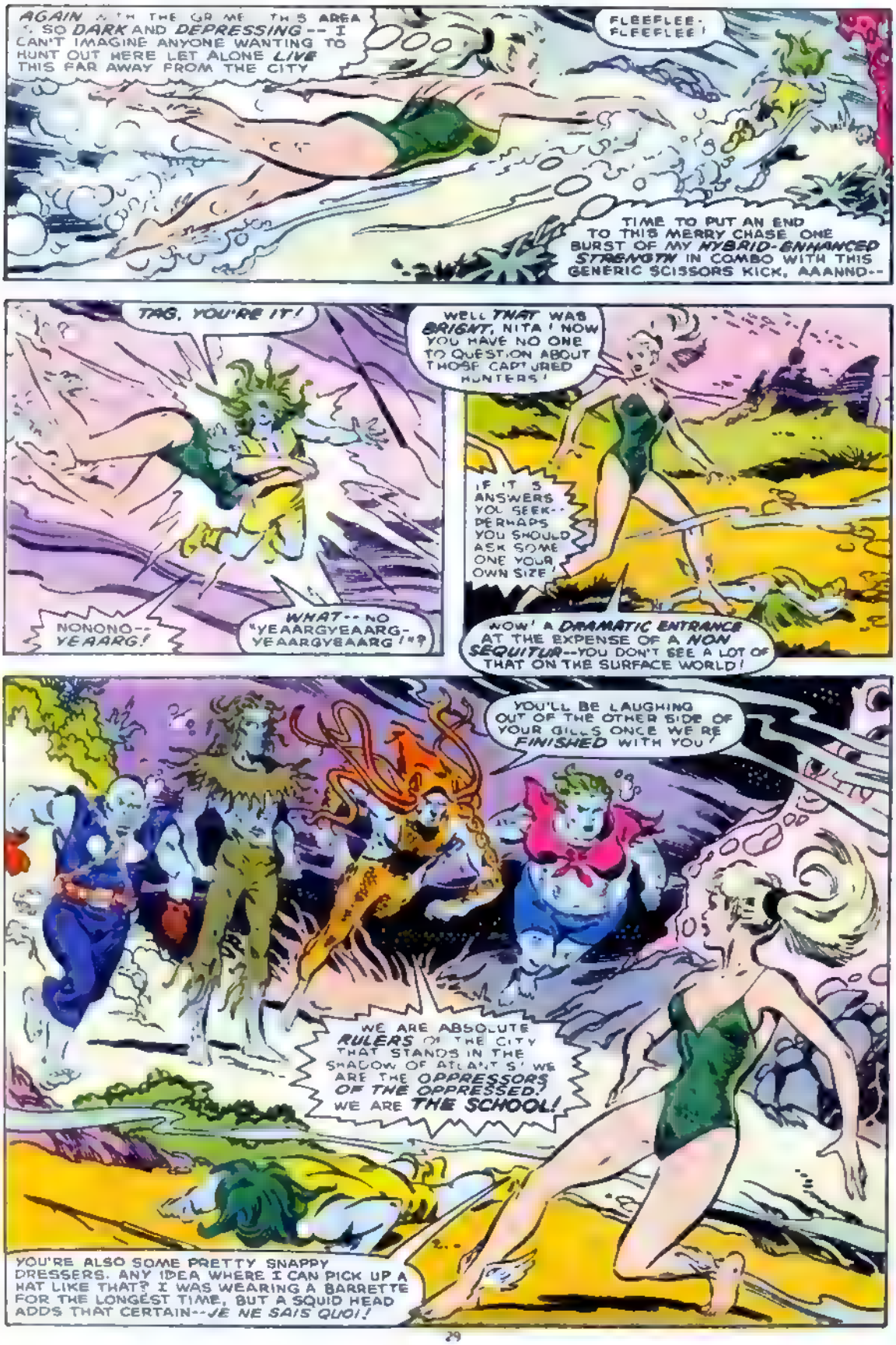
WELL DONE MY SON
YOU MAKE ME PROUD!
FATHER I--
BE AT PEACE THIS WAS BUT A TEST
THE TIME FOR YOU TO ASCEND WITHIN THE OLYMPIAN HIERARCHY GROWS NEAR BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD SEE YOU DENIED YOUR BIRTHRIGHT
YOUR NOBLE SPIRIT HAS MADE LEAVES IN THE WIND OF THEIR OBJECTIONS
I GO NOW WITH PROOF OF WHAT I ALREADY KNEW
THAT HERCULES IS THE LION OF OLYMPUS--AND SON ENOUGH FOR ANY FATHER
KRAKA-BOOM
EXCUSE ME PLEASE
YES? WHAT IS IT, YOUNG ONE?
WOULD YOU REALLY HAVE DONE IT?
I MEAN FOUGHT YOUR FATHER FOR ME?
I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE YOU WOULD HAVE BENEFITED!
I I SEE
IF YOU HAVE THEN THE FIGHT WILL HAVE BEEN WORTHWHILE
NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME I HAVE MUCH TO THINK ON
YES SO DO I FOR ONCE
WOW - NOW WHAT'LL I DO? OF COURSE NO ONE KNOWS BUT I WOULD I COULD PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE ALL THIS I MEAN, WHAT WOULD IT MATTER?
AND BESIDES JAMESON WILL FIRE ME IF I DON'T DELIVER THIS ARTICLE
AHHH-- MAYBE I CAN GET A JOB AT THE POST.
THE END

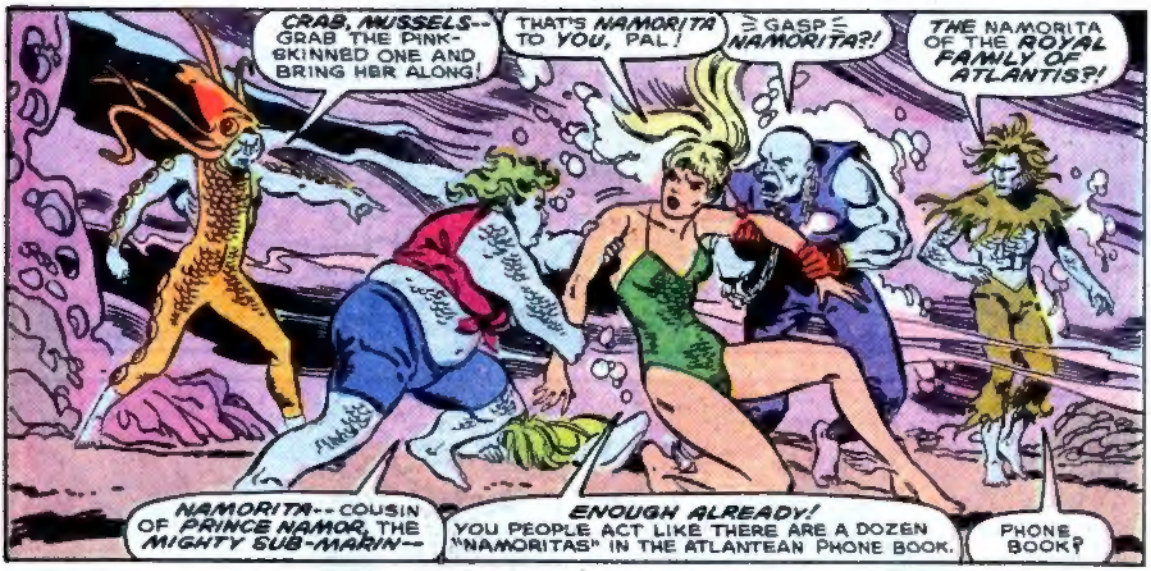
"YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE IN AMERICA!", MY FATHER TOLD ME.
"YOUR NEW HOME WILL BE IN A CITY THAT THE SURFACE DWELLERS CALL 'NEW YORK.'. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE-- AS MAJESTIC AS ATLANTIS, CONSTRUCTED OF HUGE TOWERS OF STEEL AND STONE THAT REACH THE VERY SKY.
"THE PEOPLE THERE ARE VERY MUCH LIKE OUR OWN CITIZENS. THEY PRIDE THEMSELVES ON ALL BEING CREATED EQUAL AND INDEED EACH POSSESSES A CERTAIN NOBILITY, A NATURAL INCLINATION TO HELP HIS FELLOW MAN--PERHAPS THE REALIZATION OF THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT IS THEIRS FOR LIVING IN WHAT MANY CALL 'THE MOST POWERFUL CITY IN THE WORLD'."
FREEZE, YOUNG LADY!
DON'T TELL ME-- LET ME GUESS YOU'RE A SUPER HERO, RIGHT?
SORT OF.
STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING BREAK
FEATURING: NAMORITA!
"YOU'LL LOVE IT! YOU'LL STUDY AT THEIR SCHOOLS AND SOMEDAY RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE AS A BRILLIANT SCHOLAR," THEY SAID.
THEY LIED.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, LITTLE GIRL--YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS KIND OF THING TO CAPTAIN AMERICA OR DAREDEVIL. AS IT IS, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO COME DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS AND ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS.
THE NAME'S NAMORITA AND I'D BE HAPPY TO, MR. BIG STRONG POLICE OFFICER--
POLICE
--BUT I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE ON A MUCH NEEDED VACATION WHEN I STUMBLED ACROSS THESE DRUG RUNNERS.
AS SOON AS I GET BACK, I'LL--
NOT SO FAST, LITTLE GIRL--HOW DO WE KNOW YOU WEREN'T INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS? YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY SUPER HERO I KNOW!
YOU'RE STARTING TO ANNOY ME.
DON'T MAKE ME GET ROUGH!
AND DON'T YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!
I WAS A LITTLE HARD ON YOUR PARTNER THERE. APOLOGIZE FOR ME WHEN HE WAKES UP, WON'T YOU?
SURE. BUT WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU.
I MIGHT. YOU CERTAINLY DIDN'T LEARN TO TOSS PEOPLE AROUND LIKE THAT AT JACK LALANNE. SO WHAT'S THE RUSH?
MAYBE I'M JUST BORED OF THE POLLUTION, AND THE DRUGS, AND CRIME. I'M TIRED OF LIVING IN A CITY WHERE WE TREAT OUR PETS BETTER THAN WE DO OUR NEIGHBORS.
THAT'S THE BAD NEWS...
..THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU--PEOPLE WHO CARE --WE HAVE A CHANCE OF CHANGING ALL THAT
THE EVEN BETTER NEWS, FOR ME, IS THAT I GET TO GO TO A PLACE WHERE THESE PROBLEMS DON'T EXIST!


SEND ME A POSTCARD WHEN YOU GET THERE, WILL YOU? I'VE NEVER SEEN HEAVEN.
I'LL DO THAT
I SWAM FOR HOURS-- THE MILES AND MY TROUBLES DISAPPEARING LIKE THE AIR BUBBLES THAT BURST IN MY WAKE
AFTER YEARS OF "DROWNING IN A SEA OF PEOPLE"--
-- I WAS GOING HOME AGAIN! SOME HUNDRED-ODD MILES OFF THE COAST OF GREENLAND AND SEVERAL HUNDRED LEAGUES BELOW THE OCEAN'S SURFACE, I SAW IT--
-- ATLANTIS! THEY TOLD ME, "IT WAS ONCE THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! EVEN ITS SUBMERGENCE, A RESULT OF THE CATACLYSM, COULD NOT TEMPER ITS BEAUTY AND MAJESTY. "
"WE CONTINUE TO LIVE APART FROM THE SURFACE DWELLERS SO THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN OUR UNDERWATER PARADISE-- LEST IT BE TAINTED BY THE WORLD ABOVE."
AND I BELIEVED THEM!
I FEEL KIND OF SILLY KNOCKING INSTEAD OF SIMPLY SWIMMING OVER THE CITY WALL, BUT TRADITION DICTATES I KNOCK FIRST.
SEE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER #1.--TK.
IT'S FUNNY--I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CITY FROM THIS ANGLE BEFORE. FROM OUT HERE--UP CLOSE--IT ALMOST LOOKS... GRIMY?
HEELP MEEE
UH-- WHO GOES THERE?
I DON'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT!

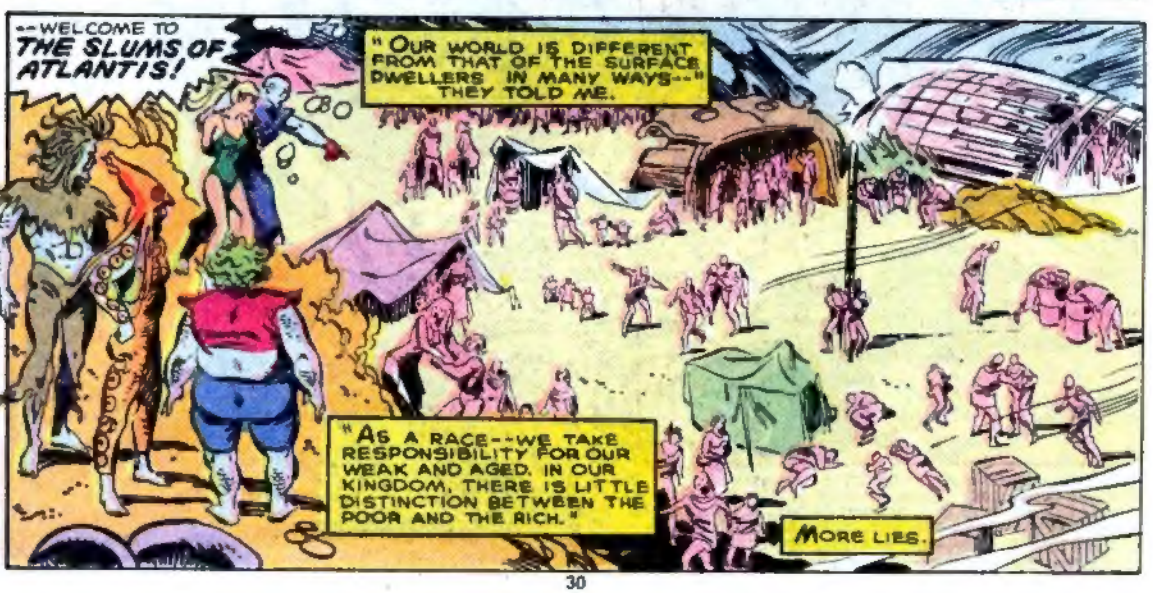
YOU THERE, PINK-SKINNED ONE! I COMMAND YOU TO COME TO MY AID!
THAT'S NAMORITA, TO YOU, AND ARE YOU ALWAYS SO POLITE WHEN YOU'RE BEGGING STRANGERS FOR HELP.
I'M SORRY, OH YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY! I DID NOT RECOGNIZE YOU!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT--IT'S BEEN A WHILE. NOW, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM--WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO FAR OUTSIDE THE CITY?
I WAS ON A HUNTING TRIP WITH SEVERAL OTHER MEN WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY A GROUP OF...OF MADMEN! TWO OF THEM--THE YOUNGEST OF THE GROUP--WERE TOYING WITH ME! I MANAGED TO ESCAPE!
NO ONE ESCAPES MINNOW AND SEAHORSE!
HA! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
GETHER-GETHER-GETHER-GETHER
WE'LL SEE HOW HARD YOU LAUGH AFTER I'VE TORN YOUR AIR-BREATHING LUNGS FROM YOUR HEAVING CHEST!
I'M REAL SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT TOPIC--
SO INSTEAD, WHY DON'T WE SEE HOW YOU BREATHE AFTER I BURY YOU FACE DOWN IN THE OCEAN FLOOR!
ULP ULP ULP ULP ULP!
MMMM-HHMMM-PHRMP!
HEY, KEEP THAT KIND OF TALK TO YOURSELF!
NAMORITA--MINNOW IS ESCAPING! YOU MUST STOP HIM! YOU MUST SAVE MY FRIENDS! YOU MUST--
YOU MUST STOP TELLING ME WHAT TO DO!
NOW GET INSIDE THE CITY WALLS AND TELL THE SOLDIERS WHAT YOU TOLD ME--BUT LEAVE OUT THE "MUSTS."
YOU THERE--WAIT UP!
TROUBLE-TROUBLE-TROUBLE-TROUBLE!


AGAIN WITH THE GRIME THIS AREA IS SO DARK AND DEPRESSING -- I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE WANTING TO HUNT OUT HERE LET ALONE LIVE THIS FAR AWAY FROM THE CITY
FLEEFLEE-FLEEFLEE!
TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS MERRY CHASE ONE BURST OF MY HYBRID-ENHANCED STRENGTH IN COMBO WITH THIS GENERIC SCISSORS KICK, AAANND--
TAG, YOU'RE IT!
NONONO-- YEAARG!
WHAT-- NO "YEAARGYEAARG-YEAARGYEAARG!"?
WELL THAT WAS BRIGHT, NITA! NOW YOU HAVE NO ONE TO QUESTION ABOUT THOSE CAPTURED HUNTERS!
IF IT'S ANSWERS YOU SEEK-- PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ASK SOME ONE YOUR OWN SIZE!
WOW! A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE AT THE EXPENSE OF A NON SEQUITUR--YOU DON'T SEE A LOT OF THAT ON THE SURFACE WORLD!
YOU'LL BE LAUGHING OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR GILLS ONCE WE'RE FINISHED WITH YOU!
WE ARE ABSOLUTE RULERS OF THE CITY THAT STANDS IN THE SHADOW OF ATLANTIS! WE ARE THE OPPRESSORS OF THE OPPRESSED! WE ARE THE SCHOOL!
YOU'RE ALSO SOME PRETTY SNAPPY DRESSERS. ANY IDEA WHERE I CAN PICK UP A HAT LIKE THAT? I WAS WEARING A BARRETTE FOR THE LONGEST TIME, BUT A SQUID HEAD ADDS THAT CERTAIN--JE NE SAIS QUOI!

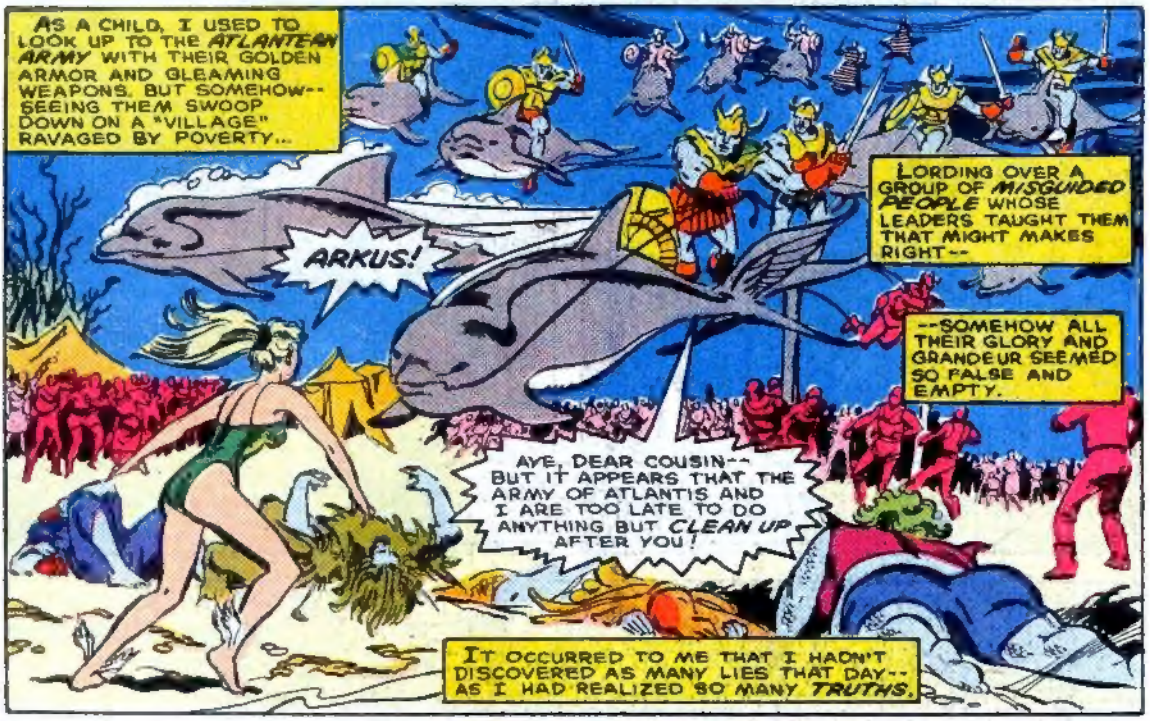

CRAB, MUSSELS--GRAB THE PINK-SKINNED ONE AND BRING HER ALONG!
THAT'S NAMORITA TO YOU, PAL!
GASP NAMORITA?!
THE NAMORITA OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ATLANTIS?!
NAMORITA--COUSIN OF PRINCE NAMOR, THE MIGHTY SUB-MARIN--
ENOUGH ALREADY! YOU PEOPLE ACT LIKE THERE ARE A DOZEN "NAMORITAS" IN THE ATLANTEAN PHONE BOOK.
PHONE BOOK?

THIS IS PERFECT! ONCE THE RULERS OF ATLANTIS KNOW THAT WE HAVE YOU AS A HOSTAGE--THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE OUR DEMANDS ANY LONGER!
LOOK I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR A WHILE, MAYBE YOU CAN FILL ME IN A LITTLE. ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT YOU PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE OUT HERE?

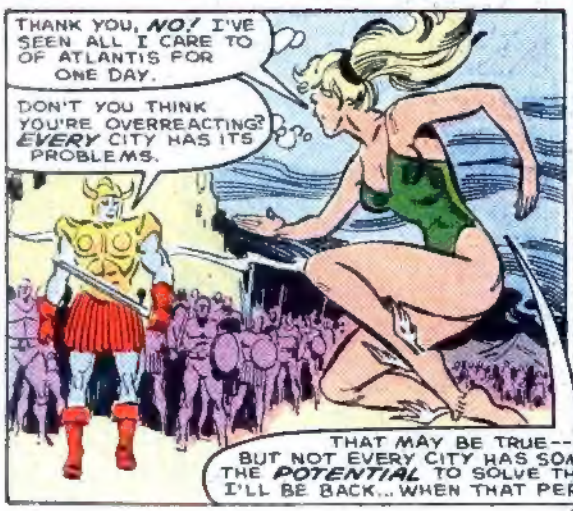
IF YOU CALL THIS LIVING--
NO--IT CAN'T BE!
BUT IT IS--AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE BEGINNING... WELCOME, NAMORITA--

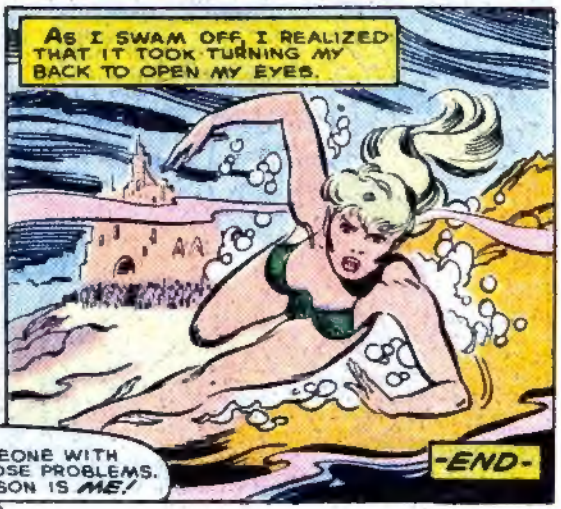

--WELCOME TO THE SLUMS OF ATLANTIS!
"OUR WORLD IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE SURFACE DWELLERS IN MANY WAYS--" THEY TOLD ME.
"AS A RACE--WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR WEAK AND AGED. IN OUR KINGDOM, THERE IS LITTLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE POOR AND THE RICH."
MORE LIES.

MAYBE IT WAS DUE TO ALL THE LIES--
OR THE SIGHT OF THE PREGNANT WOMEN AND STARVING CHILDREN--
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE THREE TORTURED AND BOUND CAPTIVES SUFFERING FOR CRIMES--BOTH REAL AND IMAGINED--PERPETRATED BY A SYSTEM RATHER THAN ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL.
EITHER WAY--
--SOMETHING INSIDE ME SNAPPED!
YOU FOUR MAKE ME SICK! IS THIS YOUR ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS THAT PLAGUE YOUR PEOPLE?! THESE PEOPLE TURN TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP AND HOPE --FOR SOLUTIONS--AND YOU OFFER THEM EMPTY SACRIFICES?!
SEAWEED--STOP HER!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
SOMEONE--
"SOMEONE", MAYBE! BUT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A NOBODY LIKE YOU!
THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS PROBLEMS, SQUID. ALL YOUR RIGHTEOUS ANGER AND BLIND HATRED--ALL YOUR HOLIER-THAN-THOU POSTURING ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THAT!
GAK
I HAVE HER!
YOU HAVE NOTHING!
DON'T YOU PEOPLE UNDERSTAND BY NOW THAT IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION--
THEN YOU--ME ALL OF US, ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM!
I'M AFRAID YOUR PHILOSOPHY IS LOST ON THEIR KIND, NITA! THEREFORE I MUST ASK YOU TO CEASE AND DESIST!


AS A CHILD, I USED TO LOOK UP TO THE ATLANTEAN ARMY WITH THEIR GOLDEN ARMOR AND GLEAMING WEAPONS. BUT SOMEHOW-- SEEING THEM SWOOP DOWN ON A "VILLAGE" RAVAGED BY POVERTY...
ARKUS!
LORDING OVER A GROUP OF MISGUIDED PEOPLE WHOSE LEADERS TAUGHT THEM THAT MIGHT MAKES RIGHT--
--SOMEHOW ALL THEIR GLORY AND GRANDEUR SEEMED SO FALSE AND EMPTY.
AYE, DEAR COUSIN-- BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE ARMY OF ATLANTIS AND I ARE TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING BUT CLEAN UP AFTER YOU!
IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT I HADN'T DISCOVERED AS MANY LIES THAT DAY-- AS I HAD REALIZED SO MANY TRUTHS.

THANK YOU, NAMORITA! YOU SAVED US FROM THESE SAVAGES!
PEOPLE... I SAVED YOU FROM THESE POOR STARVING, CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED PEOPLE.
I DON'T THINK HE MEANT ANYTHING BY IT, NITA. LET US DISCUSS THE MATTER OVER A HOMECOMING IN THE ROYAL PALACE.
MOVE ALONG!


THANK YOU, NO! I'VE SEEN ALL I CARE TO OF ATLANTIS FOR ONE DAY.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVERREACTING? EVERY CITY HAS ITS PROBLEMS.
THAT MAY BE TRUE-- BUT NOT EVERY CITY HAS SOMEONE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. I'LL BE BACK... WHEN THAT PERSON IS ME!


AS I SWAM OFF, I REALIZED THAT IT TOOK TURNING MY BACK TO OPEN MY EYES.
-END-

SUB-MARINER'S®
STUNNING COUSIN
Also: Namorita™
AND Featuring:
HERCULES™
PRINCE OF POWER